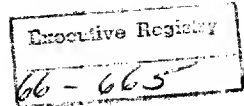


MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence



Jack:

As you requested during our conversation on Friday, I am returning the three NPIC R&D projects for your personal consideration. While I have not attempted to review them in great depth, the following thoughts occurred to me as a result of a cursory review.

a. All three project (or program) approvals entail the utilization of a prime contractor to coordinate a group of research efforts under the major program. I believe this is a departure from normal Agency practice and that it should be very carefully considered as a question of policy before we embark upon this course.

b. All three project requests speak to broad objectives without submission of any specific details susceptible to substantive review.

c. None of these requests show evidence of coordination with other Agency R&D components, particularly DD/S&T. The Human Factors project, in particular, appears on the surface to duplicate planned ORD efforts in this general area. (While it may be all right, I was rather surprised that  was the chosen contractor for this particular project.)

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d. Aside from the fact that a much better case will have to be presented before I can recommend that Dick Helms approve these projects, there is no question that the Bureau of the Budget will require an infinitely better prepared case than these projects present.

e. While I have not discussed these projects with DD/S&T and will not do so before having further conversations with you, I do believe that it will eventually be necessary to do so in order to ensure that there is no duplication, that the program is integrated, and that we are capable of managing it properly.



/s/ L. K. White

L. K. White

Att

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : NPIC Requests for Three R&D Project Approvals  
and Release of Agency Reserves

1. Attached are the following documents received from NPIC:

Requests for FY 1966 R&D Project Approvals  
within Available Funds

Tab A - Human Factors Research project with

[redacted]

Tab B - Automatic Stereo Scanning Prototype

[redacted] at [redacted]

Tab C - Image Analysis Program with [redacted]

[redacted] at [redacted]

Request for Release of Agency Reserves

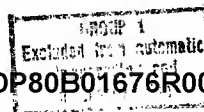
Tab D - NPIC memo requesting release of [redacted]

[redacted] from Agency Reserves [redacted]  
[redacted] of which is for a large number  
of R&D projects.

2. A cursory review of the attached documents raises a number of major policy considerations and specific project questions outlined as follows:

- a. All three project (or program) approvals entail the utilization of a prime contractor who is to coordinate a group of research efforts under the major program. This is a new concept in NPIC as well as the Agency and is worthy of close scrutiny regarding desirability of delegating a large degree of project managerial control to an outside contractor. ORD, TSD, Commo and other components doing this type of R&D maintain this

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authority in-house. There are a host of questions which should be answered before embarking on this new direction of R&D management.

- b. All three project requests speak to broad objectives without submission of any detailed contract proposals or specifics for substantive review.
- c. None of the project requests shows evidence of coordination with other Agency R&D components, particularly DD/S&T. The most glaring lack of coordination involves the Human Factors project which appears duplicative of planned ORD efforts in this general area (PI Improvement Project for )
- d. We question the availability of qualified scientific personnel to properly effect substantive project management of the proposed Human Factors contract without use of known scientific assets existing in ORD.
- e. There may be some doubts as to the choice of  as the prime contractor in the area of Human Factors.
- f. We know BOB analysts will require much more justification before releasing Agency reserves in the amount of   for R&D purposes in 1966.

3. In view of the unofficial but forthcoming decision that Agency R&D program and projects will be filtered through and staffed at a central coordinating level, i.e., the DD/S&T it seems appropriate that the attached be forwarded to the DD/S&T for his substantive review and recommendations regarding further implementation. I would suggest that PPB work with the DD/S&T on this effort. I appreciate time is of the essence in accelerating the high priority NPIC R&D program, but it should be done prudently and in coordinated fashion.

John M. Clarke  
Director of Planning,  
Programming, and Budgeting

Attachments: Tabs A, B, C,  
and D

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